

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9610

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EIND, ETEL, SCUL, CA

SUBJECT: BILL C-58: SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS

POUCHED TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

REF: OTTAWA 1416

1. ACCORDING TO SENATOR S.A. HAYDEN (CHAIRMAN, SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE) COMMITTEE IS DISPOSED TO RECOMMENDING CHANGES IN BILL C-58, BUT HE CANNOT BE CONFIDENT FULL SENATE WILL GO ALONG. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON ATTENDANCE IN SENATE WHEN COMMITTEE REPORT DEBATED--PROBABLY IN JULY WHEN ATTENDANCE IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. COMMITTEE HEARINGS MAY BEGIN MAY 5.

2. CHANGES COMMITTEE LIKELY TO RECOMMEND WOULD INVOLVE:

A. ATTEMPT TO GET 80 PERCENT CRITERIA FOR "SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME" REDUCED AT LEAST FOR INITIAL PERIOD;

B. ATTEMPT TO GET EFFECTIVE DATE ON PERIODICAL ASPECT ADVANCED FROM JANUARY 1, 1976 TO LATER DATE;

C. ATTEMPT TO GET GOVERNMENT TO COME BACK TO PARLIAMENT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION BEFORE PROCLAIMING MEASURE AS IT RELATES TO BROADCASTING.

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3. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION TCO REVIEWED BACKGROUND OF USG-GOC DISCUSSION OF TELEVISION PROBLEM AND RESULTS OF JANUARY 13 CONSULTATIONS. MUCH OF THIS WAS NEW TO HAYDEN, IN PARTICULAR USG REQUEST THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF C-58 AS IT RELATES TO BROADCASTING BE ON PHASED BASIS. HE SHOWED MUCH INTEREST IN THIS APPROACH WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENT TO "ENTRY IN FORCE" CLAUSE.

4. COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THIS BILL ARE COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER BUSINESS FOR LIMITED TIME AND MEETING ROOMS-- INCLUDING PROBABLE MAY BUDGET AND TAX PROPOSALS WHICH COMMITTEE MUST CONSIDER. UNLIKELY C-58 WILL BE CONCLUDED BEFORE LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY AND THEN WILL HIT PRE-ADJOURNMENT LONG JAM. RESULT OF THIS DIFFICULT TO FORECAST, BUT HAYDEN (ALTHOUGH NOT UNDER ANY SPECIFIC GOC PRESSURE AT MOMENT) EXPECTS BILL WILL CLEAR SENATE AND GET ROYAL ASSENT BEFORE PRESENT SESSION ADJOURNS. HE BELIEVES, BASED ON PAST PRACTICE, MINISTERS WILL STRIVE MIGHTILY TO AVOID FORMAL SENATE AMENDMENTS WHICH MAY PROMOTE MAJOR DEBATE IN COMMONS. THUS, WILL HAVE INCENTIVE TO COOPERATIVE WITH COMMITTEE. CHANGE OF EFFECTIVE DATE RE PERIODICALS WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENT WHICH MINISTERS COULD ACCEPT, IF THEY WISHED. OTHER POSSIBLE CHANGES COULD BE HANDLED BY WRITTEN UNDERTAKING FROM MINISTER WHICH WOULD BE PUBLISHED AS PART OF COMMITTEE REPORT AND, IN HIS VIEW, SUCH UNDERTAKINGS CAN BE QUITE EFFECTIVE.

5. RE THE "SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME" QUSTION, HAYDEN SAID HE AND COLLEAGUES ARE UPSET WITH REVENUE CANADA PROCEDURES USED TO ARRIVE AT 80 PERCENT FORMULA. BELIEVES OPEN HEARINGS PROCESS SHOULD BE EMPLOYED AS WAS DONE BY CRTC IN ITS PERCENTAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN CONTENT IN BROADCASTING. THUS A COMMITTEE OBJECTIVE MAY BE TO GET MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT NOT ONLY REVIEW THE ISSUE BUT ALSO TO DO SO ON OPEN BASIS. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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